



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Isiah Leggett
County Executive

September 11, 2008

Colonel Bruce Haselden, Garrison Commander
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
c/o WRAMC BRAC Office
ATTN: Anne Delp
Building 1, Room C226
6900 Georgia Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20307-5001

RE: Environmental Assessment, Implementation of Base Realignment and
Closure Recommendations and Master Planning Activities,
Walter Reed Army Medical Center Forest Glen Annex, Maryland

Dear Colonel Haselden:

I am submitting these comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of the people of Montgomery County, Maryland. Montgomery County is proud of the role we have played over the years in support of our armed forces. BRAC-mandated expansion at the Forest Glen Annex (FGA) and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda will enhance our role in this endeavor. We look forward to a collaborative relationship with the Department of Defense to help ensure the success of these BRAC actions. In that spirit, I respectfully submit the following comments:

1. While I support the general components of the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) described in Section 4.11.2.1.4 and your recognizing the need to encourage FGA personnel to utilize other modes of transportation as an alternative to single occupancy vehicles, I am concerned that the EA does not make a specific commitment to appoint an Employee Transportation Coordinator (ETC) who would oversee a comprehensive and site-specific TMP.

As you know, the Forest Glen Annex is located in a settled and densely populated neighborhood consisting of single and multi-family dwellings, busy commercial and industrial areas, and schools, parks and places of worship. It is located near major highways, arterial roads, and MARC and Metro Rail lines. This is a community that already experiences heavy traffic that will only get worse over time.

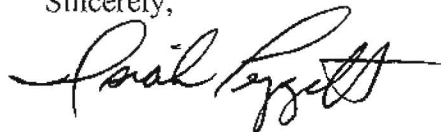
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Implementing and managing an effective TMP cannot be assured without a dedicated ETC in place who can develop a TMP that addresses the specific needs of FGA and the surrounding community. I urge you to make a specific commitment in the FGA Master Plan to appoint an ETC to ensure the success of a comprehensive and site-specific TMP.

2. Regarding the TMP, it is important to note that the EA does not mention a major relevant transportation project that will affect the future traffic assessment and should be examined in the Environmental Assessment. The Maryland Department of Transportation is conducting a major study on the Purple Line. The Purple Line Draft Environmental Impact Study is expected to be released for public comment at the end of September 2008 and all of the build alternatives identify a transit station along Brookville Road near Lyttonsville Place, a short distance from the FGA main entrance gate. A Purple Line station at this location should improve the transit access to the site and help to increase transit ridership.
3. Finally, there is an inconsistency between Figure 4-2, which identifies the levels of service in the intersections that were analyzed for the EA, and Tables 4-13, 4-14, and 4-15. I respectfully request that the EA be updated to reflect accurate level of service numbers. These inconsistencies must be resolved to determine whether the Finding of No Significant Impact is accurate.

Thank you for your attention in this most important matter. I look forward to working with you as plans are developed to expand the mission at the Forest Glen Annex.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Isiah Leggett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Isiah Leggett
County Executive